

legally, rather than being used by people who thumb their nose at our law and come here anyway.

Limited health care dollars should be used for our own people rather than providing unlimited care for illegal immigrants. That is the issue of H.R. 3722. We will vote on it next week. If you agree with me that this money and these resources are important for the health of our senior citizens and for the health of our young people and should not be dissipated on trying to make America an HMO for the whole world, then please make sure that my colleagues understand how their constituents feel on this issue.

I believe my colleagues should be judged on whether or not they are concerned about illegal immigration and they are protecting the interests of our citizens and legal residents by this vote, H.R. 3722. No matter what type of smoke can be blown in the air to try to confuse the issue, it is clear: limited dollars should go to legal immigrants and citizens. I ask my colleagues to seriously consider the consequences of letting this flow of illegal immigration dissipate all of our money available to us to take care of our seniors in the future.

PRISON INVESTIGATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has presented an opportunity for us to have a vigorous debate next week on the issue dealing with health care for all of us who are in need of health care, and my challenge on the question of separating out individuals who are called illegal immigrants yet paying taxes and hard working is that any failure in the health care system in our communities impacts all of us. So I know we will have a vigorous debate on that question.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we have had a momentous week; and I think it is appropriate as we conclude our week here, as we head home to our districts, to pay honor to the many men and women on the front lines of law enforcement; and I work with the law enforcement in my community on a regular basis. We pay tribute to those who have lost their lives defending us domestically and the families of those, the survivors of those who lost their lives. Let me first of all conclude this week by acknowledging that this is the week that we honor law enforcement across the Nation.

I want to thank them for their service, including, of course, the Capitol Police and police that guard this city, and also those who work throughout the Nation.

The week is momentous because for some reason or other when we try to do our duty here in this Congress, we hear the ire and the voices of

politicalization, partisanship and accusations. Some begin to go off of the margin and talk about campaign contributions, things that I myself would chastise and suggest is not the basic crux of why we have asked for extensive investigations on the last week's activities.

It also pains me to note that a Member of the other body would even participate in a hearing to begin to suggest that he is overwhelmed, if you will, with the constant statements of outrage about the abuse of prisoners because he wants to equate the idea of terrorism and what has happened in battle and it is no worse than the fact that Americans are there trying to do good, and of course citing terrible incidents that have occurred against American citizens and wanting to downplay what has now occurred and what the world has now seen as to the abuse of prisoners in Iraq.

I say to that individual that you are not contributing to what America is all about, and that is although we hear many voices and the talk shows are raging, fueling the fires of course of dissent, I know that the bulk of Americans agree that what happened in Iraq in that prison was not American, it was not in compliance with the Geneva Conventions, it was not moral, it was not spiritual, it was not kind, it was not befitting of how America has come to be known in this world. We are promoters of life over death, and we are promoters of peace over war.

So, Mr. Speaker, I come today to be able to clarify, if I might, what we should be doing. I certainly cannot comment as to the credibility of the visit of Secretary Rumsfeld to Iraq because I have not yet been briefed; but if it is to provide a rally, cheerleader-type atmosphere, then it is inappropriate. If it is to reaffirm good soldiers, certainly we must do that because I applaud them as well. But I believe Secretary Rumsfeld needs to come home, and I have already expressed my opinion of his need to resign or be terminated.

But I believe the administration has a duty to go forward with a full investigation into the matter dealing with the prisoner.

Lastly, we must have a complete investigation into the use of women in combat and the sexual promiscuity that is going on, the increased incidence of rape of female combat persons in Iraq, and the question of whether or not nudity and other sexual abuse is proliferating throughout the United States military. I want a full investigation, and I believe we can do no less than to undo what has been done to ruin the reputation of Americans and others.

CONGRESS IS NOT A RUBBER STAMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee on International Relations had a hearing on the Iraq transition. Actually, it was not so much a hearing as a briefing. While interesting, the real need for the Committee on International Relations and other committees of appropriate jurisdiction is policy development and oversight. I hoped ours would be the first in a series of oversight on the war in Iraq and the war on terrorism.

Deferring to the administration might have been understandable, if questionable, in the aftermath of September 11, but certainly not today. Congress cannot afford to be a rubber stamp, nor can we continue to rely on the media to embarrass us to action.

□ 1815

Had we held today's hearing 2 years ago, Iraq, our troops, the world and American taxpayers would be better off today. We would have clarified that the challenge was never to win the battle and remove Saddam Hussein. That was a given, once the might of the United States was unleashed. The real challenge was winning the peace. For that, sadly, the leadership of the United States was unprepared.

I will in the course of the official record submit questions for response from the Department of Defense and the Department of State, issues like the status of the new United Nations Security Council resolution, or getting the international donors to deliver the \$2 billion in outstanding pledges, and whether the United States is going to shortchange Iraq's needs after the transition to sovereignty like we have in Afghanistan.

The most important question, however, for us as a committee and for individual Members of Congress is to see if we can play a role in improving this situation. Can we help the President, who is unable to think of any mistakes, understand, admit and even be candid about where he and his team have fallen short of the mark? Can we provide to the American public real budget numbers as we clearly see now a \$300 billion price tag emerging?

The public demands an open and honest budget process. Can committees make it easier to get rid of the architects of this failed policy? Can we help place less emphasis on the shadowy military contractors and more emphasis on working through the nongovernmental organization community? I would note as an example the Mercy Corps operation, extraordinarily cost efficient and extremely effective in working with foreign nationals in trouble spots around the world. To the extent that we continue to use military contractors, can we in Congress rethink how it happens, clear up the ambiguities in law and policy and to have, finally, rigorous standards for performance and cost accountability? Can we help the administration avoid using artificial deadlines for key governance decisions based on our political calendar in the United States? Can

we help train attention on the real threat, after all, which is global terror? Can we focus our resources and attention away from things that are, if not positively loopy, at least very low priority, like national missile defense, to have priority placed on homeland security and finishing the job in Afghanistan?

It is time for this Congress to act like a coequal branch of government. Had we been doing that since September 11, we would have saved money, saved lives and enhanced our legitimacy and effectiveness around the world. Indeed, that world, Iraq and our troops all need us to do our job. Even the administration, while it may not recognize it, will be better off if Congress does its job.

Today Secretary Grossman said that he appreciated references about American staying power in Iraq. I would say that the real key to staying power is the trust and confidence of the American people. The administration's performance and inability to acknowledge its mistakes is undercutting the confidence of the people I represent and the people I meet from around the country. I hope our International Relations Committee and other relevant committees in Congress do their job to help rebuild the confidence, so badly shaken, of the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ABUSE OF IRAQI PRISONERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we are all deeply troubled by the graphic pictures which show U.S. military service members humiliating, torturing and sexually abusing Iraqi prisoners. The reports that U.S. military police and intelligence personnel violated the most basic standards of moral conduct in addition to the established tenets of the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war have ignited outrage within this country and throughout the rest of the world. This situation has tarnished America's reputation as a guardian of individual civil liberties and as a protector of human rights. While the vast majority of our soldiers are doing their duty with dignity and with honor, the grotesque abuses of Iraqi prisoners are truly un-American. They go against everything our country stands for and holds dear. The images of these abuses are also a major setback in our war against terrorism. Our standing in the

Arab world has been seriously undermined as a result of what happened at Abu Ghraib.

As a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I have listened to the testimony and heard the explanations of the highest Pentagon leadership as to the abuses of Iraqi prisoners, but I am not convinced that these abuses are an isolated incident involving a few military members. The likelihood is that the lack of supervision that allowed them to occur may in fact be systemic, at least in some parts of the military intelligence and military police commands.

This crisis must be immediately dealt with through a full-fledged investigation into the breakdown of military regulations and the possibility of widespread prison abuse. Furthermore, the individuals responsible for perpetrating the abuses as well as their commanding officers must be held accountable for criminal wrongdoing. I do believe that accountability, however, should extend considerably beyond the prosecution of a handful of aberrant military personnel, private contractors and their supervisors. Responsibility starts at the top.

With the existence of additional photos and videos of Iraqi detainees still unreleased, it is likely that this crisis will not soon go away. The transfer of Iraqi sovereignty is set to occur on June 30. The Bush administration must drastically repair our standing in Iraq as well as with the rest of the world before we can responsibly extricate ourselves from this foreign policy blunder.

I emphasize foreign policy as opposed to military policy. Our military accomplished their objective nearly flawlessly by liberating the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein's tyranny. But they were not prepared to be long-term occupiers. That should never be their role nor our national mission. The lack of a realistic exit strategy is one of the reasons that I so strongly opposed this preemptive and unilateral invasion.

Mr. Speaker, our mission in Iraq is at a crossroads. Our soldiers are struggling to complete their missions without the proper training or resources or support. The barbaric murder of Nicholas Berg clearly demonstrates the depth of the resistance we face. The murder of Nicholas Berg was a monstrous act for which there is no justification. Our thoughts and our prayers are with his family. America's soldiers, in fact, are serving with honor. We stand behind our courageous men and women in uniform who are bearing the burden for this military action in Iraq, and we are deeply grateful for their patriotism, their courage and their sacrifice. But the security situation in Iraq has deteriorated rather than improved. Last month, we lost more soldiers in one month than at any time since the war began.

Mr. Speaker, our military was sent into battle without the right equipment or the necessary support. Helicopter pilots have flown battlefield

missions without the best available antimissile systems. According to a DOD commission report, roughly one-fourth of coalition deaths have occurred as a result of attacks on unarmored vehicles, because we do not have enough armored vehicles to go around. And our failure to forge a true coalition has forced thousands in the National Guard and Reserves to be away from their families and from their jobs for more than a year with no end in sight.

Mr. Speaker, a failure to condemn what is wrong is a failure to recognize what is right. Recently, a former leader of the 372nd Military Police Company stated that minimizing the conduct of these MPs that were responsible for the prison abuse by comparing it to the reckless and violent acts of the Iraqi insurgents is wholly beside the point. We must compare our actions to those of the men and women who have honorably served this country. We have to stand up for our standard of decency that we have set for the rest of the world and stand up to the enemies of freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUDAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take time this evening to talk about a very serious situation occurring in Africa as we speak, a situation of ethnic cleansing in Darfur, Sudan, and Sudan's vicious campaign of terror which it is raining on its people.

Mr. Speaker, in June 2001, I came to this floor to speak about slavery and genocide perpetrated against the people of southern Sudan. I said then that innocent civilians are the victims in this war. We are well aware of the number of people killed, maimed, displaced and enslaved during that terrible conflict, which still goes on. Yet we as members of the international community failed to do the right thing, to end the suffering. In the north-south conflict, more than 2 million people perished and an estimated 5 million people have been displaced during the 40 years of this dread conflict. It is the same government that terrorized, enslaved and killed innocent civilians in the southern Sudan and the Nuba that is now yet again engaged in a terror campaign in Darfur in western Sudan.

When we thought that things were going well with the Sudan Peace Act